



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn  
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 21, 2025**  
**10:15 AM**



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg  
(214) 208-1364

[PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org](mailto:PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org)

Ushers

Travis Medve  
Charles Meyer  
Paul Richter  
Colin Schomburg

Secretary

Janice Pazderny  
(979) 836-7303

[Office@BethlehemWmPenn.org](mailto:Office@BethlehemWmPenn.org)

Acolyte

Michael Hinze

Organist

Ann Sommer

Greeter

Diane Jaehne

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 21, 2025 – 10:15 AM**

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**Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion**

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 151-166

*Pre-Service Music*



Representing God's Love  
To our Congregation,  
Community, and the World

**December Bible Verse**

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation;  
my God will hear me."

*Micah 7:7*

**Our Mission Statement**

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of "closed" communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ's words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

***Ringing of the Church Bell***

**OPENING HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

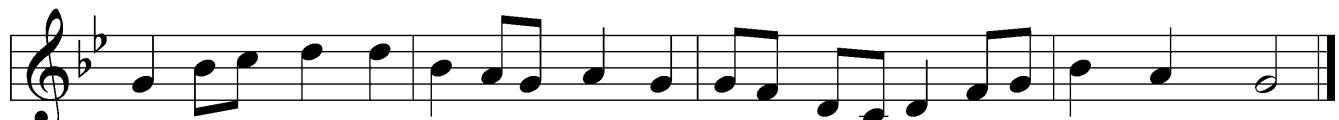
*LSB 338*

1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

INVOCATION

*LSB 151*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

*LSB 151*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

*Psalm 130:5-8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
**that the mountains might quake at your presence.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
**and in his word I hope;**

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
**more than watchmen for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
**and with him is plentiful redemption.**

And he will redeem Israel  
**from all his iniquities.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
**that the mountains might quake at your presence.**

### KYRIE

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 7:10-17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE

*Romans 1:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.*Stand*

COMMON ALLELUIA

*LSB 156*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
 And open wide our heav'nly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of all mankind;

Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*  
SERMON

*A Sign of the Times*

*Matthew 1:18-25*

*Stand*

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit*

OFFERING

*Stand*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

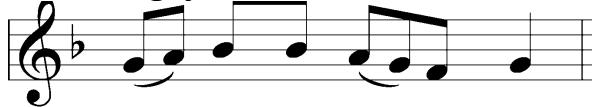
LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### SANCTUS

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth

as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**F**or Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{\tfrac{X}{+}}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

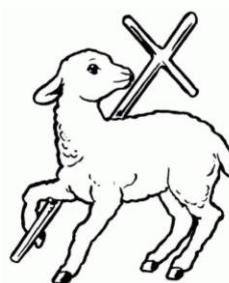
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{\tfrac{X}{+}}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** A - men.



## AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

*Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: Public domain



*Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*

LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth  
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Kneel-ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."  
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt. Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain



*Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

LSB353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain



*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

LSB 340



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the King of  
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple  
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His  
 is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To  
 set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -  
 Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
 dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign  
 face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
 joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To  
 en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

*Stand*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thank the Lord*

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB 166

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{\tfrac{a}{c}}$  give you peace.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## CLOSING HYMN

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-dring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908. Text and tune: Public domain



### POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
 where we worship in the name of the crucified  
 and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Blessings to you as you worship with us today.*

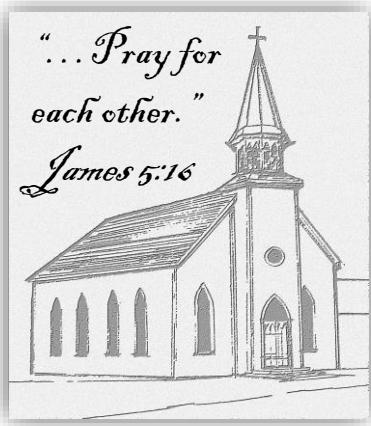


**Congregation:** Healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Edith Erwin, healing; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; for Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

**Community:** for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

**World:** for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries

### Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

*Please remember these families in your prayers this week:*

- Goessler – Kevin, Kellie
- Gresham – Ryan, Terie, Connor
- Lueckemeyer – Terry, Becky
- Luera – Jennifer, Chaylea, Benson, Hunter
- Van Eman – Lynn
- Watkins – Brandy, Destiny (Interiano)

*May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### This Week's Schedule

December 21 – December 28

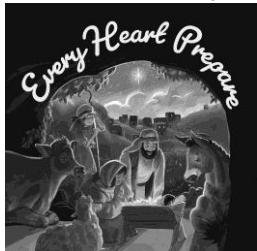
#### **Today:**



#### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

<b>8:15 AM</b>	Christmas Program Practice
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Youth League Meeting
<b>10:15 AM</b>	Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte:	Michael Hinze
Greeter:	Diane Jaehne
Ushers:	Travis Medve
	Charles Meyer
	Colin Schomburg
	Paul Richter

#### **Wednesday:**



#### *Christmas Eve*

<b>6:30 PM</b>	Children's Christmas Eve Program
	<i>Every Heart Prepare</i>
Ushers:	Brad Molitor
	Michael Schroeder
	Shane Schroeder
	Trenton Schwartz

#### **Thursday:**



#### *Christmas Day*

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Christmas Day Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion
Acolyte:	Norman Krieg
Crucifer:	Winston Krieg
Ushers:	Lance Searle
	Collin Schroeder
	Chris Smitherman
	Rallin Wellmann

#### **Next Sunday:**



#### *The Holy Innocents*

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
<b>10:15 AM</b>	Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte:	Wyatt Schramme
Crucifer:	Michael Hinze
Greeter:	Grace Kankel
Ushers:	Billy Ashorn
	Blane Ashorn
	Brian Ashorn
	Westin Ashorn

**Serving in December:** **Elder** – Brad Molitor / **Trustee** – Michael Schroeder

*If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.*



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Diane Jaehne.*

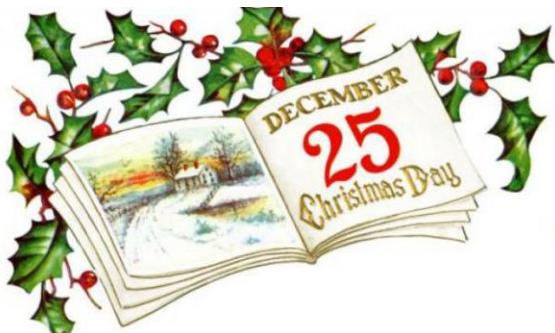


**December 21 – Advent 4** – The birth of the King of Glory (Psalm 24:7) is surrounded by the messiness of human sin and intrigue (Matthew 1:18-25). As we rejoice that our Lord has taken on our human likeness with all its sin

and pain, being “descended from David according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3), we can also rejoice that Jesus has sanctified every human life, even those born in circumstances which are surrounded by sin and pain.



The Children’s Christmas Eve program service will be held **this Wednesday at 6:30 PM.**



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

**Thursday at 9:00 AM with Holy Communion.**

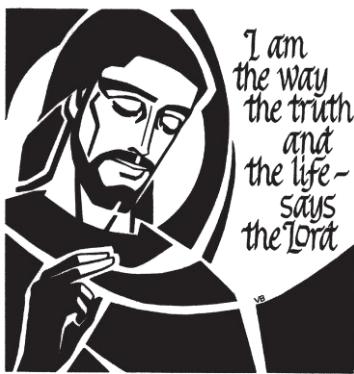


NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM.**

Please join us to ring in 2026 by worshipping our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. Let us reflect on the Lord’s goodness to us in 2025 and trust His same faithfulness for this coming year.

## Sunday School Corner



In our Winter unit, we continue our study of the New Testament, beginning with the account of Mary and Martha and continuing through Jesus appearing to Thomas. This morning, the kids studied the lesson “The King Arrives – Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem.” Following Jesus’ unusual directions, two disciples bring a donkey and her young colt to transport Jesus into Jerusalem. Throwing their cloaks upon the colt, they proceed into the city. There, the crowds spread their cloaks on the road and cut palm branches to line the way as they shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9). To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Jesus comes to us in the most unexpected of ways, but He is always where He promises to be—in the Word and Sacraments.

It’s exciting to realize that Jesus is not some far-off God but the God who comes to you—at Bethlehem, riding into Jerusalem, and in your very own church! When you think of where to find Jesus, what comes to mind? What are some other times in the Bible when Jesus does unexpected things? The most amazing, unexpected thing that Jesus did was die on a cross to save us from our sins. We didn’t deserve any of that, but God loves us so much that He did this unexpected and amazing thing that changed the world. Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

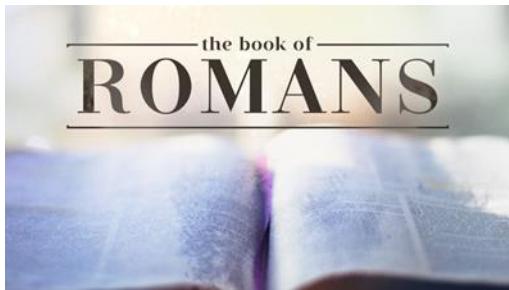
## High School Lesson

Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture’s most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God’s mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God’s Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even “master criminals” reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Lesson 5 – Flirt Like an Egyptian (Genesis 39)**

In this week’s lesson, our High School class explored Joseph’s encounter with Potiphar’s wife in “Flirt Like an Egyptian.” Students looked at how temptation, false accusation, and injustice played out in Joseph’s life, and how God remained with him through it all. Even when Joseph suffered for doing what was right, the Lord preserved him and worked through his trials for a greater purpose. We discussed how

Christ, too, was falsely accused and unjustly condemned, yet through His suffering brought about our salvation. Joseph's story points us to the One who is with us in every trial and who turns even evil intentions toward His saving plan.



St. Paul's letter to the Romans is often called the "chief part of the New Testament." Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the

struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the freedom of the Gospel. Whether you've been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God's Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.

### Online Giving



You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the "Give" tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

### Last Week at Bethlehem

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
Dec. 14	Sunday School Youth Bible Class Adult Bible Class	20 4 28	\$ 124.00
Dec. 14	Worship Service	112	\$4,293.00 Special Offering \$ 148.00 Special Offering \$ 78.00 Special Offering \$ 117.00 Special Mission Offering \$ 70.00 Poinsettias \$ 273.00
Dec. 17	Midweek Advent Evening Prayer	48	\$1,303.58